



INFORMATION UPDATE FOR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS

http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/Newsletters/index.asp



Water Supply Outlook

Our water supply situation is fair.

However, recent spring season rains

continue to help replenish our watersheds and reservoirs. Last week our Cedar River watershed received 2.9 inches of precipitation, and the S.F. Tolt watershed received about 2.9 inches.

Snowpack has increased slightly from last week and is now about 25 percent of normal in the Cedar watershed and 35 percent of normal in the South Fork Tolt watershed for this time of the year. Chester Morse Lake is at 1558.1 feet, up approximately 1.6 feet from last week. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at 1759.9 feet, up approximately 0.8 feet from last week.

Although the recent rains are helping to make up for the very poor snowpack conditions, we'll need sustained rainfall throughout the spring, and we continue to be very cautious about our water supply. Seattle Public Utilities issued an updated news release on April 1, 2005 titled, "Seattle's Water Supply Improving, but Still in Doubt – Citizens Asked to Continue Wise Water Use" which can be found on the Seattle Public Utilities internet website at

<http://www.seattle.gov/news/default.asp>. The city's water shortage advisory remains in effect for now and the utility is urging people to continue taking common-sense steps to prevent waste and to improve conservation. Measures taken since March 16 have resulted in a noticeable decrease in consumption. To learn more about saving water, please visit www.savingwater.org.

Water consumption for the 7-day period ending April 17 averaged approximately 111 mgd. That is less than the 127 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 130 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from March 2005

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during March 2005. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.7 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.4 mg/L.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is now meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the most recent Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) sample was 2.1 and is described as slightly chlorinous and plastic. The Tolt supply was 1.3 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.

Cedar Supply Water Quality

The seasonal algal bloom in Lake Youngs is now over. This year's bloom ended earlier than in

recent years. With the new Cedar Water Treatment Facilities, the taste and odor associated with the algae was effectively reduced as the flavor rating never reached 3.

Lead and Copper

The first round of lead and copper samples for 2005 is being collected February through May. Complete results will be available no later than June 10. The next round of samples will be collected in the second half of the year. Starting this year, there are four separate compliance areas for the Lead and Copper Rule: Cedar wholesale customers, Tolt wholesale customers, City of Bellevue service area, and City of Seattle service area. This change was made at the request of the Department of Health and is based on the normal source of supply to each area.

Annual Water Quality Reports

All wholesale customers should have the necessary information from SPU for the annual consumer confidence reports. Reports are due July 1. SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



Asset Management

SPU Planning for the Future

Large Meter Bypass Arrangements

The Asset Management Committee (AMC) heard and approved a Project Development Plan allocating \$400,000 for the installation of bypass piping on 400 meters for high and medium interruption cost customers. Ninety bypass installations will be completed this year with the remaining work to be completed by 2007.

SPU Metering maintains a testing program for large meters to meet the state and American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards. Currently, in order to meet the requirements SPU must shut off water to customers whose meters do not have bypass piping installed. Installing bypass piping allows SPU to provide continuous water service to customers while testing and performing

maintenance on meters. Bypasses will increase the efficiency and number of meter tests that can be conducted daily by making the scheduling of meter testing more flexible.

Visit the Asset Management website at <http://spuweb/AssetManagement/default.htm> for more details about SPU's asset management activities.



Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>
MARKETING

New WashWise Bus Signs Hit the Street in April

A redesigned and updated Wash Wise bus sign hit the streets the first week of April. The signs follow in the footsteps of the very successful "Be WashWise Save up to \$100" signs. The new signs incorporate the headline "50,000 Wash Wise Washers Can't Be Wrong" to celebrate the new rebate milestone. The new signs will be on busses through the end of the year.

CONTACT: Cornell Amaya (206) 386-1170

YOUTH EDUCATION

Waterbusters On-line Game Gets Upgrades

Bert and Phil's Waterbusters Conservation Game will be upgraded in the next two months to increase the challenge levels and allow tracking of game users. The interactive game will get a new character, "Running Tap", to add to the challenge of saving water before it runs out, ability to track user profiles, imbedded knowledge test items, music upgrades and a display of highest user scores. Modifications will be made in time for the summer promotional campaign on WB22 and KCPQ13 that runs throughout September. If last year was any indication, this year's game should be among the top draws to the savingwater.org website.

CONTACT: Mike Mercer, (206) 684-0570

RESIDENTIAL INDOOR

WashWise Rebate Program

Now in its 8th year, the WashWise Rebate program is quickly approaching 50,000 rebates!

Currently the program has one, two and three star rebate levels of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Over 175 machines qualify for the rebates, with more machines qualifying at the \$100 level. With new standards going into effect in 2007, planning is underway to gradually rebate only 3 star machines. CONTACT: Billie Fisher, (206) 615-1282

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Water Supply and the Landscape

Staff has been heavily involved in the response to concerns about water supply and the recent dry conditions. A variety of actions are in process to plan for a potential drought, including preparing scenarios for voluntary and mandatory curtailment, and planning actions to publicize our messages. Staff is coordinating with the landscape community and answering questions regularly from citizens and landscape professionals. An email message to over 400 landscape professionals on our database garnered a number of thanks for early communications on the water supply situation.

CONTACT: Nota Lucas (206) 684-5855

2005 Savvy Gardener Classes

New this year, we have developed a name for SWP's annual gardening classes: The Savvy Gardener Class Series. While all of these classes will help gardeners use less water, we are continuing our strategy to entice gardeners by using language that speaks to motivations other than water conservation. Locations will vary from Molbak's nursery in Woodinville to the Shoreline Conference Center to the Highline Water District office to the Seattle Central Library. A full-color class brochure with a display holder is available for purveyors to display at front counters or other prominent locations. To view the web version of the flyers, visit www.savingwater.org <<http://www.savingwater.org>>

CONTACT: Liz Fikejs, 206-615-0516

Promoting The Plant List

A thumbnail image of the cover of SWP's new Plant List is available for purveyors to promote the

guide locally. This new guide suggests 240 plants that thrive in a variety of Northwest conditions. The full guide can be downloaded from www.savingwater.org or customers can call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 to request a hard copy. While spring is an excellent time to promote this guide, if the thumbnail is too late for purveyor spring publications, then fall would be the next best time. CONTACT: Liz Fikejs, 206-615-0516.

Landscape Water Conservation Marketing Venues

This year's landscape related water conservation marketing is being designed to respond to water supply conditions. Marketing venues have been selected based on their ability to reach certain target markets however, both marketing venues and specific messages may change depending on the degree of drought. Currently the primary water conservation message is the "Overwatering.. ..Soaks You, Drowns Plants, Drains Resources", which will use directmail, radio, and bus advertisements to reach customers. Depending on the severity of the drought our message could change, our options for marketing venues will adjust accordingly.

CONTACT: Jenna Smith, (206) 684-5955

COMMERCIAL

Pre-Rinse Sprayhead Program

Installation of efficient pre-rinse sprayheads at all QFC Grocery Stores has begun. The program will place sprayheads in 2 dozen stores in the Saving Water Partnership area, with an average of 4 to 6 heads per store.

CONTACT: Phil Paschke (206) 684-5883

Change in the Commercial Toilet Rebate Program

On April 1st the commercial toilet rebate for tank-type toilets changed from \$60 per fixture to \$80 per fixture. A pilot test to offer free toilets to commercial businesses is also in the planning stages. The idea would be to start with a specific water district, using the sprayhead database to do a direct mail to participants who were identified as

having high volume toilets. This program will apply only to customers with existing tank-type toilets, the majority of commercial fixtures are flush-valve type.

CONTACT: Phil Paschke (206) 684-5883

Water Efficient Irrigation Program

With all the media attention about a potential drought, some large commercial customers with automatic irrigation systems are getting prepared by taking advantage of the free technical assistance and irrigation rebates provided by the Water Efficient Irrigation Program (WEIP). Kennedy High School in Burien, King County Water District #20 and the City of Burien Parks in King County Water District #20 are considering

possible rebate projects. Burien Parks is researching centrally controlled irrigation products that would utilize real-time weather data to adjust watering run-times to changing weather and plant water need. The City of SeaTac will receive a rebate worth 50% of the costs to make water saving irrigation upgrades to the Valley Ridge Park and save an estimated 4,888 gallons per day (gpd). The Cherry Hill Farm Home Owners Association located in the City of Bothell service area installed 8 rain sensors for potential water savings of 3,952 gpd. If you know of any commercial customers in your area that would like to take advantage of WEIP programs please call Jenna
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